



COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P. O. BOX 2120

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April 8, 2005

TO: Middle School Guidance Directors/Counselors

FROM: Elizabeth M. Russell, Director
Office of Career and Technical Education Services

SUBJECT: Distribution of Free Brochures for Parents of Eighth-Grade Students

The new parents' brochure, "Help Your Child Take the Plunge," was shipped to all middle schools for distribution to middle school counselors and parents of eighth-grade students. This publication is a companion piece to the student magazine entitled r u ready? that was distributed in January 2005 to all high school juniors. Copies of both publications are enclosed. We are pleased with the coordinated design of the two references and are grateful to *Virginia Business Magazine* for developing these guides in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Education.

This publication is closely linked to Governor Mark Warner's "Education for a Lifetime" efforts. The governor's initiative emphasizes that the keys to educational and career success involves each student's making the right career choices whether the choices are to enter the job market following high school or continuing formal education.

We hope that you will conduct a special parents' event to explain how to apply the brochure guidelines in helping their children plan for the next big transition to high school programs, career considerations, and continuing education beyond high school. As you well know, support at home can reinforce your efforts to prepare students for a successful future.

For additional information, please contact, Becky Marable (Rebecca.Marable@doe.virginia.gov), grants administrator, office of career and technical education services, at 804/225-3349. Additional free copies of the parents' brochure or the student magazine, r u ready?, may be ordered from the CTE Resource Center (info@CTEresource.org), at 804/673-3778.

We hope that the brochure will be helpful to parents in assisting their child in career decision-making.

Enclosures

Copy: Career and Technical Education Administrators